4977

THE WORK OF GOD IN A DYING MAID:

BEING

A ſhort account of the dealings of the LORD with one

SUSANNA WHITROW,

About the age of fifteen years, and daughter of *Robert Whitrow*, inhabiting in *Covent-garden*, in the county of *Middleſex*.

Together with her experimental confeſſions to the power and word of the LORD GOD both in judgments and mercy to her ſoul.

Publiſhed for the warning and good of others, who are in the ſame condition ſhe was in, before her ſickneſs.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

WORK of GOD

IN A

DYING MAID.

FRiends and People, to whom the following Lines may come, theſe may give you knowledge, that being ſpoken unto by a Friend, of the ſtate of ſickneſs, and wonderful expreſſions that were uttered by this maid now deceaſed, made me deſirous to ſee her, and as a mother fearing God, knowing what Joy it muſt be to have a child that had tranſgreſſed, to turn to the Lord with all the heart, and to find acceptance with the Almighty, as I have cauſe to be-

lieve ſhe did; for he was with her, and I felt a living Power to operate in her, that neither her youth, nor comelineſs, with any other outward expectation, that ſhe formerly had or might have of the Glory of this World, left a place in her to deſire any longer Life in this world, but as ſhe had before I came, cryed out againſt her ſelf, for loving and going to theſe vanities and pariſh places of worſhip; ſo now in my hearing ſhe was much raiſed in her ſpirit, in the ſenſe of the joy that ſhe believed ſhe was entering into, praying and praiſing the Lord with a pleaſant melody, and deſiring alſo that *her Mother might be taken out of this wicked world*: I felt the loving-kindneſs of God unto her, and ſhe was brought near to me; the Lord ſhewed me *ſhe muſt dye*, and being the only Child of her parents; and having heard this tender hearted mother, had buried her only ſon not a quarter of a year before which by relation was an excellent child for his years, not being ſix and a half, for wiſdom and learning, and outward comelineſs a very beautiful child, and one of a great courage, yet of a very tender, ſweet, loving nature, and more than all, in ſoberneſs purſuing of the better part, ſo I felt and know in theſe ſudden and renewing trials there was judgment; and beholding her mother's quiet and patient bearing of it, had this brought to my remembrance, *That they are bleſt that can ſtand in judgment*; and none but a tender mother can tell what it is to have hopeful children ſo ſoon taken from them, and ſee the Lord is righteous

teous in what he doth; and I that have drunk into this cup, and a more bitter one, muſt confeſs *The Lord is righteous in all, and his Judgments are true, but his Mercies are over all his works, and his love everlaſting, and who lives therein, gives thanks for all things*; and this appears to me worthy to be known and retained, that ſo young a hopeful and Beautiful maid ſhould be taken off from her vanity, yet that the mercy of the Lord ſhould ſo freely extend itſelf unto her, that ſhe might teſtify againſt her own, and the world's vanities and worſhips; and tho' but in the laſt hour, the Lord of goodneſs granted her an entrance into his Vineyard, and power ſhe received to magnify his juſtice and mercy, that out of the mouths of babes and ſucklings will perfect his own praiſe: And ſure I am; the dealings of the Almighty God with her on her dying-bed, was fore-warning to ſome, and inſtruction to others, that all might believe, and come to the obedience of the life where all may profit, and be built up unto eternal life, over death and hell, in the life of Jeſus our Lord, which is the deſire of her that through grace is a lover of all your ſouls called

Rebecca Travers.

Susanna Whitrow ſickned the 5*th* Day of the 3d. Month, 1677. and lay until the 9*th*. day, under great judgement and terrors of the Lord for ſin and iniquity, and about four in the afternoon ſhe broke forth in exceeding earneſtneſs, crying to the Lord for *Mercy*, with wonderful words, till about three hours, then did the Lord hear her cries, and anſwered the deſire of her ſoul; and when ſhe had obtained mercy from the Lord, then did ſhe fall into an exceeding travail in ſoul and Spirit, praying mightily to the Lord in the behalf of her father, and ſo lay four or five hours crying earneſtly to the Lord for her Father, before we writ down any of her words. Her natural ſpirits were almoſt ſpent before theſe words were taken as follow.

'Lord, remember not his offences, let me 'bear them, Lord, let it be eaſy to him, 'Lord, make the way eaſy; make his friends 'to be enemies unto him, that thou mayeſt 'have mercy on him: Lord, carry him 'through, O let him not periſh with the 'world; Lord, do thou ſupport him over this 'world: ſhould a little filly dirt of this world 'draw away his mind? O Lord, ſatisfy me 'whether thou wilt grant me my deſires: 'Bleſſed Lord, hear me; O Lord, hear me;

'O Lord, let his mind be ſet on things a-
'bove; Lord, fix his Mind upon thee; Lord,
'let me never reſt (unſatisfied) Lord, help
'him; turn him, Lord, and he will be turned;
'Lord, if I leave him behind me: O Lord,
'help me; O Lord, help him: O Lord,
'O my Lord, I have not ſtrength left; O
'hear me; Lord, take him to thee; but,
'Lord, grant me my requeſt; O Lord,
'help me; Lord, take not away my ſtrength
'before thou haſt granted my deſire. O
'Lord, my deſire is not to live in this abo-
'minable world: Lord, if thou take me
'not to thyſelf the tempter will come again:
'O Lord, my heart can never reſt, until
'thou haſt turned him to thyſelf: O Lord,
'muſt I be taken away without any ſatisfac-
'tion? O Lord, ſhall I have no help for my
'diſtreſs? O Lord, Lord, there is no way for
'him but to watch and pray continually,
'leſt the tempter prevail. Lord, are my ſins
'forgiven? O Lord, had not my eyes been
'in thoſe vanites, my heart had not gone af-
'ter them: Lord ſtrengthen thou me, but to
'ſee my deſires: O Lord, can I pray no
'longer? O Lord, how hath my ſtrength
'failed, and my Heart decayed? O Lord,
'let all conſider what is this kingdom: O
'Lord, thou comeſt as a thief in the night: O
'Lord, I beſeech thee to tell me, if thou haſt
'granted my deſire? O Lord, thou wilt take
'me: O Lord, muſt I go before my deſire
'be anſwered? O, muſt I go? O is there no de-
'lay? O, Lord, let me but ſtay to hear an
'anſwer. I am very happy that I ſhall not

'live in this wicked world: O Lord, I am 'going; O Lord take me Then to her re-'lations, *O why will you keep me so long? I shall be kept longer.*

Robert Whitrow } her } Father.
Joan Whitrow } her } Mother.
William Nash,
Susanna Mears, Nurse.

SARAH ELLIS

HER TESTIMONY

CONCERNING

SUSANNA WHITROW,

TO HER

MOTHER,

A few words which were expreſſed by this precious child in the time of her illneſs.

I Not thinking ſhe was ſo near her End, did not bear in memory as many of her words as I might have done: I can truly ſay, I was much refreſhed in ſeeing the great Work and Power of the Lord upon her, and hearing the precious Words that proceeded out of her Mouth: When firſt I came to ſee her, ſhe had lain about a week ill; ſhe ſeemed to be in much Extremity of pain, and crying out to the Lord,

ſaying, *O Lord, the Enemy has wounded my Heart, he has wounded my Head, and he has wounded my Heel; Come Lord, I make room, I make room, my Heart is open: O rip me up, and ſet me in thy Boſom, as thou didſt the laſt night: O, I feel the Enemy coming in like a Flood; Lord, drive him out.*

Another time I went to viſit her, when ſhe was in great Conflict of Spirit and body, and her Mother withdrew from her, to ſeek the Lord, leaving her Father by her Bed-ſide in which time ſhe uttered little or nothing, but lay Groaning (ſhe would hardly ſuffer her Mother to be from her, if ſhe could help it) after a while her mother came again, and ſhe ſaid *O mother, Ceaſe not, Ceaſe not,* though no one had told her, that her mother was a praying to the Lord, but only as ſhe had a ſenſe of it her ſelf; and when her Mother came to her again, ſhe was in a ſweet ſtill Frame of Spirit, and cryed out, *Ah! my dear Mother, O my bleſſed Mother, the Lord has ſhewed me, my Mother ſhall have a double Portion of his Spirit, yea, my Mother ſhall have a double Portion.* This ſhe ſpoke ſeveral times over, with many more precious Words, that are paſt out of my Mind.

Another time I came to ſee her, a day or two before ſhe dyed, and her countenance was changed, and ſhe looked very ſweetly, and lay praiſing the Lord, ſaying, *Oh my Saviour, my bleſſed Saviour.*

Another time her mother went out of the room, into the next room about ſome buſineſs, and ſhe called earneſtly to her mother, and ſaid, *Ah! mother, I had much in my Heart to have ſpoke to thee: Care not for this World; a little will ſerve us, we ſhall not want; the Lord will feed his People as he did* Eliſha, *by the* Ravens; *yea, the Lord will feed us as he did* Eliſha.

Sarah Ellis,

CONcerning that False Report that was raised by some envious persons, which she formerly kept company with, hearing of her change from that vain conversation she had formerly lived in, they reported, *That she was in love*, and that *that was the cause of her distemper*. When her father came home, and had given me a relation of what those persons had infused into him, although I was satisfied to the contrary, I went to my dear Child, and examined her concerning it, and because I would be clear, of what ever might happen hereafter concerning it I said unto her, *My dear Child, thy Father and I will give our consent freely for thee to marry him, and we will do to the uttermost of our power for to make thy life comfortable with him all thy days.* Then she said, 'My dear Mother, I 'thank you; but that man is no more to 'me than one I never saw with my eyes, 'neither will I ever have him, if he had all 'the Possessions of the earth: It's true, there 'was something betwixt us, he being very 'urgent with me upon the account of mar-'riage, proffering to settle a considerable es-'tate on me, and my father being a little 'harsh to me, I thought I would set myself 'at liberty; but upon better consideration, 'I told him, I would do nothing without

'my father and mother's advice, which he 'was unwilling to; in that and ſome other 'things, I was diſſatisfied; I conſidered, if I 'ſhould have him, I ſhould be ruined; ſo, 'that ſmall affection I had to him, I with-'drew; and before I fell ſick this laſt time, I 'did deſire never to ſee him more: And 'now, my mother I am clear of him, and all 'men living.

'Oh, my bowed down and broken-hearted 'mother! What hath been thy ſufferings 'in this family? Oh! how haſt thou been 'oppreſſed with our iniquities? Ah, bowed 'down! Ah! how often haſt thou told my 'Father, *The Lord would viſit him with ſore and grievous judgment if he did not repent, and turn from the evil of his ways?* 'Ah! how often 'haſt thou ſaid, *The Lord would plead thy righteous cauſe with us?* 'Now the day is come, 'thou haſt ſo long warned us of; now the 'Lord is broke in upon us. Oh, how great, 'hath been thy Care and Pains, which thou 'haſt taken to bring us into the Fear of the 'Lord? Oh, thou Bleſſed of the Lord! Great 'ſhall be thy Reward, the Lord will give thee '*Beauty* for *Aſhes*, and the Garment of *Praiſe* 'for the Spirit of *Heavineſs*: Bleſſed be thou 'my Mother. Her Mother being at that time Praiſing and Magnifying the Lord; then ſhe ſaid, 'My bleſſed Mother, now is that 'Viſion fulfilled, which the Lord ſhewed thee 'concerning me, *That my Soul ſhould bleſs thee, 'and thy Soul ſhould bleſs the Lord.* Then ſhe 'broke forth into ſweet Melody, ſinging Prai-'ſes unto the Lord.

'Bleſſed are the poor in ſpirit, Lord, I am 'poor, I am needy, I need thy ſtrength continually to withſtand the tempter. O Lord, 'ſtand by me, move not from me; for if 'thou go, the tempter will come; I will hold 'thee faſt; thou art my Saviour; thou ſhalt 'ſave me from the tempter. My dear mother, ſend for that dear friend (meaning 'R. T.) that prayed by me the other 'day; ſhe is a precious woman; her heart 'is upright before the Lord, the Lord hath 'ſhewed it me; I love her; let her pray by 'me to the Lord againſt the tempter: And 'ſend for that faithful ſervant of the Lord 'W. P. The Lord will hear the prayers of 'the faithful; but I have been unfaithful; 'O, how often have I ſinned againſt my Saviour, the *Light* in my conſcience, which 'ſhewed me the way I ſhould walk in O, 'how often hath he knocked at my ſtony 'heart ſaying, *This is my bleſſed truth, which the* 'Quakers *Preach, by which all Souls that I have* 'made ſhall be ſaved? Then have I ſaid in 'my heart, *After ſuch a thing and ſuch a thing* 'is accompliſhed, I will leave off my Life of vani'ty, and become a new creature.' Oh! I was ſhe 'that truſted in *LYING VANITIES*; 'I thought I ſhould have had *LONG* '*LIFE*, and then I did intend to ſerve 'the *LORD* in my *OLD AGE*.

'Oh! how have I been againſt a wo'man's ſpeaking in a meeting? but now, 'whether it comes from man, woman or 'child, it is precious indeed. O that I

'could be with my mother the Lord is with
'her, that I might have a little time lon-
'ger, that my dear mother and I might go
'in the *Country*, and walk in a wood toge-
'ther, that we might ſeek the Lord, and
'never lay our eyes together till we have
'found him.

Witneſſed by me

ANN MARTIN.

'O Lord, my ſtrength faileth I wait upon
'thee, renew my ſtrength: O my
'holy Lord, be pleaſed to reſtore me to my
'former health, then will I wait diligently
'upon thee: I will ſit on the ground, with
'my head in the dunghill; I will never lift
'up my ſoul to vanity; my heart ſhall ne-
'ver go after the ſight of my eyes. My
'dear mother, pray for me; for whatſo-
'ever thou aſkeſt of the Lord, it ſhall be
'given thee.

'My dear mother, thou often haſt told
'us of the terrible and dreadful day of the
Lord God that is at hand; O, it will be a
'dreadful day to the wicked of all ſorts,
'the Lord hath ſhewed it me! O Wo, Wo,
'Wo to the children of ſcoffers; for as it
'was in *Eliſha*'s day, ſo ſhall it be in this
'the day of the Lord's power, the bears out
'of the woods ſhall devour them. And
trembling ſhe ſaid, 'O I feel thy terrible po-
'wer, O God, ſtrike dread terror and aſtoniſh-
'ment in the hearts of thy enemies; O in all
'workers of iniquity, who make a mock at
'ſin, and deriſion of thy people, and take
'pleaſure in their abominable ways, which
'thou abhorreſt; O, my mother, I have
'heard God's thundering Power rattle, rat-
'tle, rattle upon the heads of his ene-
'mies; and the Lord hath ſhew'd me he will

'deſtroy this place: A Wo will be to 'the children of pride in that day; and 'Wo, Wo will be to the blind guides that 'wear the long robes, the falſe teachers of 'this nation: O did not our Bleſſed Lord 'ſay, *If the blind lead the blind both ſhould fall into 'the ditch*: 'Ah Lord! how ſhould it be 'otherwiſe? for they hate the light, and count 'it *an inſufficient thing*. O did not our bleſſ- 'ed Saviour ſay, *Believe in the Light, that you 'may be children of the Light*; and bid them 'all, *Watch and pray, leſt they enter into the ene- 'mies temptations?* And how could they watch 'without Light? for they could not ſee the 'tempter when he came in the dark. Ah, 'that Scripture is fulfilled upon this people, 'That *darkneſs ſhould cover the earth and groſs 'darkneſs the people*; and then *Night ſhould be 'unto them, that they ſhould not have viſions, and 'the day ſhall be dark that you ſhall not Divine*. 'And this was *Egypt*'s darkneſs; Ah! but 'the Children of *Iſrael* had light in the land 'of *Goſhen*: O extolled be thy name thou 'God of power; O, if thou wilt be pleaſed 'to reſtore me to my former Strength, O 'then I will ſpeak of thy wonderful Power; 'yea, my voice ſhall be as the ſound of a 'trumpet, which ſhall convert ſinners unto 'thee; yea, I will ſit in the duſt, and cover 'my head with aſhes, and put on ſack-cloth 'within and without.

Then ſhe taking ſomewhat to drink, lay ſtill a little time after, but immediately broke forth with joy in her Heart, making ſweet melody to the Lord, and ſo lay half an hour

ſinging unto the Lord, but not uttering any words; then ſhe broke forth into praiſing and magnifying his great works.

'O that curſed place, that houſe of abo-'minations, that Play-houſe, that abomina-'ble houſe where they commit their abomi-'nable whoredoms; God will deſtroy it. Her mother ſaid unto her, *What houſe my dear Child?* ſhe anſwered, 'That *Church*, as they 'call it, in *Covent-Garden*, the members there-'of are proud perſons, and covetous, and de-'ceitful, lyars, drunkards and whoremon-'gers: Ah! my bleſſed Saviour ſaid, *We ſhould know them by their fruits.* O theſe were 'my curſed fruits, which I brought forth 'when I was a hearer of that Church, pride 'and diſobedience to my parents: How of-'ten have I adorned myſelf as fine in their 'faſhions as I could make me, yet they have 'looked upon with ſcorn, and deſpiſed my 'dreſs, and ſaid unto me, *How like a taudery you have dreſt yourſelf? You are not at all in the mode*: 'then I came home on their Sabbath 'day, and gone immediately up into my 'chamber, and locked the door, and alter-'ed all my Laces, and ſo I have gone to 'their worſhip in their mode, and then I 'have pleaſed them. Pray my mother call 'my father, I have ſomething to ſay to him, 'I deſire my body may not be laid in that 'abominable place, but among the people 'of the Lord called *Quakers*; and now I am a 'true *Quaker*, now I tremble before the Lord 'and his holineſs; come ye holy prophets,

'who were *Quakers* and *Trembſers* at the word 'of the Lord; come *Moſes*, *Jeremiah*; come 'holy *Habakkuk*, now I am one with thee, 'now my heart drops, becauſe of the Lord, 'and the greatneſs of his Majeſty.

'O my Lord, yea my Lord; for ſo I can 'call thee, becauſe thou ruleſt in me, and 'my ſoul is ſubject to thee: But they have 'many Lords and many Gods; they have 'Gods of ſilver, and Gods, of gold, the work 'of their own hands.

'O Lord, my ſtrength fails; my Father, 'my heavenly Father; I wait upon thee: 'renew my ſtrength, my holy Father; be 'pleaſed to reſtore me to my former health: 'then I will wait diligently upon thee, I 'will ſit on the ground with my head in the 'dunghil, my heart ſhall never go after 'the ſight of my eyes. My dear mother, 'pray for me; for whatſoever thou aſkeſt 'of the Lord it ſhall be given thee. The 'reaſon why I deſire to live is, *becauſe I have 'ſo greatly diſhonoured the Lord in my former life, 'and now I would live the reſt of my time to his 'praiſe: for now if I live, I ſhall be as one raiſ-'ed from the dead, to declare his wonders*: But 'what ſhall I ſay? Tho' one ſhould riſe 'from the dead they would not believe.

She was exceedingly filled with the indignation of the Lord againſt their idle practices and their abominable ways, which is not taken in writing, but theſe words the maid-ſervant writ down as ſhe ſpoke them; ſhe cryed out aloud and ſaid, 'Father, theſe prieſts that deceive the people

'they ſtudy all the week what to ſay when
'*Sunday* cometh: O Father, but the day of the
'Lord is coming, that he will confound all
'their ſtudy and all their wiſdom, and in
'that day they ſhall not be heard for their
'much ſpeaking; they are Phyſicians of no
'value.

'My dear mother, I fear I ſhall not have
'a place ſo near the Lord as my ſoul de-
'ſires; for I am ſenſible, *there are degrees of*
'*Glory, and as the creature acts here for the Lord,*
'*ſo ſhall its reward be hereafter*: I have done
'nothing for the Lord, but he hath done
'all for me, therefore I deſire to live, that
'I might live a holy and righteous life that
'my converſation might be in Heaven,
'though my body be here on the earth, that
'I might invite all, as *David* did, *to taſte and*
'*ſee how good the Lord is*: They have taſted
'of their periſhing life of *Vanities*, yea they
'have drunk a full cup, their meaſure is
'running over, O, but they never taſted the
'joys, the unſpeakable raviſhments of ſoul
'that attend the humble holy life of *Jeſus*:
'Oh, if they had ever taſted the leaſt mite
'thereof, they would bid adieu to all their
'dirty life of vanity; ah, they would not
'dare to ſpend their precious time in adorn-
'ing themſelves like *Jezebels*, patching and
'painting, and curling their monſtrous heads;
'but O the *Chriſtian life* is another thing, they
'muſt not give themſelves the liberty to
'think their own thoughts, much leſs to act
'ſuch abominations as theſe.

After she had lain a while praising and magnifying the Lord, then she spoke very deep and weighty things, which are not ‘ set down, concerning the *wise virgins* and ‘ their *lamps burning*, and exhorted all to keep ‘ very diligently upon their Watch; for said ‘ she, ‘ The Lord will come as a Thief in the ‘ Night, and in a Day when he is not looked ‘ for; therefore Watch and Pray continually; ‘ here the Tempter cannot enter; this is the ‘ *way* my Saviour spake off, when he said, ‘ *You must take up your daily Cross*; this is that ‘ *Flaming Sword*, which is spoken of you must ‘ *pass through* mark that, you must *pass through* ‘ *it before you can come to the tree of life*; this ‘ is the *Cup* my Saviour asked if you could ‘ drink of; and this was that *Baptism* he ‘ asked if you could be *baptized* withal: Come ‘ all you that call yourselves *Christians*, what ‘ of the life of Holy *Jesus* is in you? who ‘ was a *Man of Sorrows*; you light and airy ‘ ones, you wild and wanton ones, you that ‘ are lovers of Pleasures more than God, you ‘ workers of iniquity who are always crying, ‘ *Lord, Lord, but do not the things that I say*, this ‘ shall be your dreadful doom, that *you are SAYERS, but not DOERS*; you workers of ‘ iniquity, that think ye can never have e‘ nough of the pride of life, the lust of the ‘ flesh, and the lust of the eye, which is not ‘ of my heavenly father; and so *you are of* ‘ *your father the devil; for his servants you are* ‘ *whom ye obey*. At another time she said, ‘ I ‘ have heard them say, that *my mother is so* ‘ *grounded in her religion, that it is impossible ever*

'*to turn her.* My mother is grounded indeed, 'ſhe is eſtabliſhed upon the rock that ſhall 'never be moved; my mother ſhall never 'be moved; her name is written in heaven; 'yea, in the Lamb's Book of life; it is ſeal-'ed the Lord hath told me ſo, and bid me 'tell her, *There ſhould none be able to pluck her 'out of his Hand.*

'Come my bleſſed mother, I have ſome-'thing to ſay to thee, thou art *Mary*, thou 'art *Mary*; my mother, thou haſt choſen 'that good part which ſhall never be taken 'from thee; thou ſhalt ſit continually at 'the feet of thy Lord; aye, this is my mo-'ther's Portion; O what portion is like this? 'this is more than to ſit in the thrones of 'princes.

'*Be ye holy as I the Lord your God am holy*; 'this they ſay is *impoſſible.* O, would the 'holy, juſt and true Lord command that which 'is impoſſible? In this they count the Lord 'a hard Maſter: O but what can my Soul 'ſay of thy power, when I ſought thee, but 'could not find thee, I knocked hard, but 'none would open? for my Sins ſtood like 'Mountains, that I could not come near 'thee, I would fain have prayed, but could 'not; I lay ſeveral days and nights proſtrate 'before thee, ſtruggling for Life, but could 'find none; and I ſaid, *There, is no Mercy for 'me*; then ſaid I, *I will never leave thee; if I 'periſh, I will periſh here; I will never ceaſe 'crying unto the:* Then I heard a Voice ſay, '*Jacob wreſtled all night before he obtained the 'bleſſing.* O then thy Word was ſtrength to

'my Soul; O then my ſtony heart was 'broken to pieces before the Lord, and then 'the ſpirit of prayer and ſupplication was 'poured into my ſoul; and now I can ſing, 'as *David* did, of mercy and judgment; unto 'thee, O Lord, will I ſing; O with a rended 'Heart, and my mouth in the duſt will *I* 'ſing praiſes unto thee my bleſſed Saviour. '*&c.*

For ſeveral days ſhe had a very great conflict in ſoul and ſpirit concerning the tempter; and ſtrong were her cryes to the Lord for ſtrength to overcome the enemy; ſhe was ſo deeply engaged in the holy war of the Lord againſt the enemy, that ſhe would not ſuffer her head to be removed from the pillow, but ſaid, *It muſt be, as it were, nailed there till ſhe had overcome the tempter*; ſhe ſaid, *I would not ſuffer a thought to wander, if I move I ſhall be drawn off my watch, and then the tempter will prevail*; then ſhe had a viſion, and as it were the appearance of an angel, giving us the full deſcription thereof, which we have forgot, only that it was arrayed in *White*; ſhe had alſo a viſion of the tempter which ſhe ſaid *ſtood before her bound in chains*; then ſhe ſaid, *It is finiſhed, I have overcome, my Savi-hath bound him*; then ſhe broke forth into bleſſing, and praiſing, and magnifying the Lord, that it is beyond the tongue of utterance to give a relation thereof; for many days and nights together ſhe would hardly ſuffer her to ſlumber, but would waken her ſelf to ſing praiſes unto the Lord, and to de-

clare of his wonderous works that he hath done for her ſoul.

Some friends came into the room, but ſhe ſaw them not, and after many ſweet and precious words, ſhe ſaid, 'Don't you feaſt, but 'faſt and pray; and be you contented with 'mean things; O what matter for fine houſes, 'or ſilken apparel; O remember him that 'ſate on the ground, but wore a garment 'without a ſeam, our bleſſed holy Lord, who 'went up to the mountain to pray, that 'with-drew himſelf into gardens and deſo-'late places of the earth, my ſoul hath fel-'lowſhip with him. O my dear mother, if 'it pleaſe our dear and heavenly father to 'ſpare me this time, we will get us into the 'country to ſome remote place, amongſt the 'woods, where none can hear us: O then 'ſhall our crys pierce thro' the heavens, 'which ſhall make the earth to ring and 'the birds ſhall hear the echo thereof: O 'there, my bleſſed mother, will we ſing prai-'ſes, praiſes, praiſes with rended hearts, and 'our mouths in the duſt, to the one holy, 'holy Lord. O thou glorious One, thou 'haſt overcome my heart, thou haſt raviſh-'ed my ſoul; O thou pure, pure holy One, 'what ſhall I ſay of thee? or what ſhall 'I render to thee, for thy loving-kindneſs to 'me? O my heart is overcome with thy love, 'praiſes be unto thee for thy loving-kind-'neſs to me. O how ſhall I do to ſet forth 'thy goodneſs for my heart drops before 'thee?

'Lord, if it be thy holy pleaſure to take 'me out of this life, then let me have, I 'beſeech thee, one whole day, that my 'tongue may never ceaſe praiſing thee. And the Lord anſwered her requeſt.

All that day ſhe was wonderfully filled with the ſweet ſolace of the heavenly life, ſinging praiſes and Hallelujahs to the Lord, and ſpoke very much concerning the Lamb and his followers, which had waſhed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb; and towards the evening, while the power of the Lord was upon her, there came in two perſons to ſee her, and ſhe uttered many precious heavenly words, which were not taken in writing at which time theſe words were ſpoken by her, *O what matter for fine houſes and ſilken apparel:* and ſo went on above half an hour, and with a very great weight upon her ſpirit, ſaying *O* Iſrael, *what hath thy God done for thee?* and then uttering many deep and weighty words, ſhe ſaid, *The daughters of* Sion *are haughty, they go with their out-ſtretched necks, and their wanton eyes*; uttering many more deep words; then taking up an inward lamentation, ſhe ſaid, *O what ſhall we do for the daughters of* Jeruſalem?

After ſeveral days lying in the ſweet ſolace and heavenly life of the Lord (in which time ſhe uttered many heavenly things, which were not taken in writing) ſhe did expreſs theſe words, 'O thou beloved of my ſoul! 'what ſhall I ſay of thee? for thou art too

'wonderful for me: O praiſes be unto
'thee: O come all ye holy prophets,
'praiſe the Lord with me: O praiſe the
'Lord my ſoul, upon the loud-ſounding
'inſtrument; ye glorious angels, you
'that excel in glory, ſing praiſes to him
'that ſits upon the throne: O how am I
'overcome! Ye ſtones in the ſtreet why
'riſe ye not up to praiſe him that lives
'forever? O thou light, praiſe thou the
'Lord; and thou darkneſs, praiſe and
'exalt him above all things forever: O
'thou Son and Moon, ye Stars in the
'Firmament of his power, magnify the
'Lord above all forever: O all ye fiſhes
'in the ſea, why come ye not forth to
'praiſe the Lord, the mighty God, who
'gives you breath and being? I will praiſe
'thee my holy Lord God, whilſt I have
'any breath: O praiſe the Lord O my
'ſoul, ſing praiſes to the God of my ſalva-
'vation: O my holy One, my holy One,
'thou haſt overcome my heart: Ah! thou
'haſt raviſhed my ſoul. My dear mother
'I ſhall be as a new born babe; I ſhall be
'very ſimple, but bear me; for the Lord is
'with me.

'My dear mother, I muſt lay down this bo-
'dy, the Lord will not truſt me longer in this
'*wicked world*; happy am I, my Saviour, my
'ſoul loves thee dearly; thy love is better
'than wine; my Saviour, my holy one;
'how glorious art thou! I have ſeen thy
'glory; I am overcome, my heart is over-
'come with thy ſweet countenance: O

'how lovely art thou! I am raviſhed, my 'heart is raviſhed, with thy innocent looks, 'with the ſweet ſmiles of thy glorious coun-'tenance: O come away, come away; why 'doſt thou ſtay? I am ready, I am rea-'dy.'

Then lying ſome time very ſtill I heard her in a heavenly harmony, in which frame of ſpirit ſhe departed without either ſigh or groan.

JOAN WHITROW

HER

TESTIMONY,

CONCERNING

The loving kindneſs of the LORD.

OH Lord! did I ever ask riches or honour of thee? But I have asked wiſdom and underſtanding; for I ſaid in my heart, *The merchandiſe of that, is better than the merchandiſe of gold and ſilver*; O Lord, thou art that wiſdom my ſoul asked, which cometh from above; that is firſt pure, and then holy, and thou art that underſtanding my heart ſought for, more than for hidden treaſures; and did I ever ask ſilver or gold, or houſes, or lands, for my childrens portion? but I have asked the fear of the Lord; for I know right-well, if they had that, they had all treaſures; Ah! Glory, glory, glory be unto thee for what thou haſt given me; O my ſoul doth magnifie the Lord, & my ſpirit doth livingly rejoyce in the God of my ſalvation, who hath

had regard to the low eſtate of his hand-maid, Oh! what ſhall I render unto thee for all thy mercies towards me? but to ſtand continually upon my watch-tower, and to keep in my wards whole nights, that when my Lord comes in the ſecond watch, or in the third watch, he may find me with my loyns grided, and my light burning, that ſo I may be ready in body, ſoul & ſpirit, to enter into the joy of my Lord. Oh my ſoul! what hath the Lord been to thee here? even a place of broad rivers: O the height and length, & the depth and breadth of thelove of God to my ſoul, in this ſtate: Oh! how haſt thou come in and ſupped with me, and cauſed me to eat of the banquet that thou hadſt prepared, and cauſed me to drink of the wine of thy kingdom; ſo that my cup hath over flowed, as it doth at this time, in the remembrance of thy gracious Goodneſs, what thou haſt been to me in the day of tryal, and in the many tribulations, how thou didſt ſet my feet upon a rock, didſt eſtabliſh my goings, praiſes be unto thee, ; and yet this was a ſmall thing of thy glorious goodneſs, and bountiful loving-kindneſs, but thou haſt alſo given my children a name amongſt the living, and crowned them with eternal life: Oh, eternal praiſes, and endleſs Hallelujahs be given unto thee, our everlaſting Father: Oh did I ever think in the day when thou led'ſt me down into the deep, that I ſhould have thus beheld thy wonders in this the day of thy mighty power, wherein thou haſt returned me the anſwers of

my petitions, when I ſaid unto thee, *Let my children be thy children, otherwiſe I deſire none; for one child in thy fear, O Lord, is more to me, than a thouſand in the ſpirit of this world:* then did thy preſence over ſhadow me, and my ſoul was ſweetly ſolaced in thy love; Oh! then thou anſwered me and ſaid *I will be a father to thy children, and a husband unto thee.* Oh, thou faithful One! who is a God like unto thee, keeping covenant with them that fear thee? for now thou haſt performed thy word unto thy ſervant, glory be to thee, forever. Oh, thou holy One! what haſt thou done for me? no heart can conceive, no tongue can expreſs the riches of thy love, for thou haſt given me my children again in the reſurrection of thy moſt holy life, though their tabernacle be gone to its place, yet they live with me in the ſpirit, for our communion is with the holy One. And now, O Lord, what am I, or what is my family, that thou ſhouldſt ſhew this great kindneſs to? not unto me, O Lord, not unto me, but unto thy name be the praiſe? for what am I that I ſhould offer up an offering unto the Lord? for out of the willingneſs of my heart have I offered my children unto the Lord, although my children were as dear to me as my life, and I could have laid down my life for theirs, if the Lord had required it; yet I durſt not aſk their life of the Lord, although my dear child ſo much deſired it; but I ſaid unto the Lord, *glorify thy name, let thy will be done in my earth, as it is in heaven:* And now, O Lord, by thy hand thou haſt brought this to paſs, and

for the exaltation of thy glorious name, thou powerful God, art ſtriking dread and terror into the hearts of thy enemies; and all that will not bow to thee ſhall be ſlain before thee; for, O thou long-ſuffering God, how is the throne of iniquity eſtabliſhed, and thou diſpoſſeſſed of thy princely Dominion, whoſe right it is to reign in the hearts of the ſons and daughters of men; but they have robbed thee of thy right, and entertained thy enemy in thy room; but now thou art come, now thy day is come, thou ſo long ſpake of by the mouth of thy holy prophets, *that thou wilt diſmount the man of ſin out of his throne, and ſet thy ſon upon thy holy hill; yea the mountain of the lords houſe ſhall be eſtabliſhed on the top of all mountains; thou haſt determined to deſtroy all iniquity, and to bring in everlaſting righteouſneſs, Amen, amen,* ſaith my ſoul; all glory, glory, and eternal praiſes be given unto thee, thou King of Glory.

CONCERNING

MY DEAR SON

JASON.

I Need not ſpeak much; for moſt that knew him, did know what manner of child he was; both in perſon and parts natural; therefore I ſhall only give a ſmall relation of ſome of the ſenſible words that came from him before he fell ſick, for the ſatisfaction of ſome that deſire it. Before he went to the *Latin ſchool*, he was in a moſt

ſweet heavenly frame of ſpirit, and had ſuch a zeal for truth, that if any lightneſs or airyniſs did appear in any, at that time he was a continual reprover of ſuch, the precious words that came from him at that time are paſt out of mind; I writ down ſome of them, but they are loſt He delighted exceedingly to hear me rehearſe the noble Acts of he Lord, and would be exceedingly broken; he would often pray when he was alone; he did earneſtly deſire his father upon his death bed, *that he would let him go from him to the wall, that he might pray to his God:* He deſired much to converſe with me concerning God and his kingdom, and would aſk me deep queſtions, with ſuch heavenly expreſſions, to the aſtoniſhment of the hearers, that I have often ſaid in my heart, *this is the inſpiration of the Almighty that gives my child this underſtanding:* he loved the Lord and his people, and would often ſay, when he ſaw any that he thought were good friends, *it made his heart glad to ſee them:* he would often ſay, *if I live, I ſhall be a good* quaker; *I ſhall go forth, and declare the word of the Lord; I ſhall be a true miniſter; I will not preach for hire; I will proclaim the dreadful day of the Lord againſt the wicked.* About three days before he fell ſick, he ſaid unto me, *mother, the next time I go to the tavern they will bid me preach a ſermon to them in Latin; then I will ſay unto them, I will preach you a ſermon in Engliſh; and they will bid me ſay on; then I will ſay,* Wo to the proud perſons, Wo to the ſcoffers, Wo to the drunkards of *England*; Wo unto

them that riſe early to follow drunkenneſs, and to them that continue untill night, till the wine doth enflame them; you workers of iniquity, what will you do in the dreadful day of the Lord, that is coming upon *England* for becauſe you have waſted the good creatures upon your luſt, the Lord will bring a famine upon *England*. *Mother, ſometimes I have ſuch a trouble in me, that I am not ſo good as I would be, that I play ſo much, and do not every thing as you would have me; I pray to the Lord and ſay,* Lord deſtroy this wicked one in me, and put thy fear into my heart, that I may never do any thing that ſhall diſpleaſe thee; *yet for all this, the devil will come in, and take my mind off the Lord; oh, then I am ſo troubled that I ſay,* Lord have mercy upon me. The day before he fell ſick, he did take me by the hand, and ſaid, *Mother, I ſhall dye, oh, that you might dye with me, that we might both go to the Lord together.* Then I ſaid, *my dear child, why doſt thou deſire to dye?* He anſwered, *That I might be always with my dear Lord God, and out of this wicked wicked world.* When at any time he had ſeen me retired unto the Lord, he hath ſate down by me, and would be mightily broken, and hath often ſaid weeping, *O that I did enjoy that that you enjoy, Oh, that I did know what the fear of the Lord was, that my heart might be made glad, as yours is.* The Lord ſhewed me when he was three years of age, *he was his beloved child,*

and he would take him, and from that time I have expected his death.

He departed this life, not being six years and a half old.

Joan Whitrow.

THE END.

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